

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Process for solidifying the surface of a raw product including raw sausage emulsions or raw sausages by ultrasonic treatment ~~having~~ comprising the following steps in the course of a continuous process:

~~substantial~~ degassing [[of]] the raw product substantially;

directly ~~direct~~ contacting [[of]] the raw product with the surface of one or more ultrasonic sonotrodes, at least one of the ultrasonic sonotrodes being heated to achieve a uniform denaturation layer;

~~formation of~~ treating the surface of the raw product with at least temporary action of ultrasonic energy in the low frequency range, but with high vibrational amplitude sufficient to form a thin, sealed, shape-stabilizing independent coagulation skin on the surface of the raw product ~~by at least temporary action of ultrasonic energy in the low frequency range, but with high vibrational amplitude;~~ and

~~transfer of the~~ transferring an ultrasonic-energy treated raw product to further processing or packaging.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the raw product is conducted through tubular hollow sonotrodes under pressure.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein shaping sonotrodes are used.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the raw product is subjected to a synchronous treatment with liquid smoke or other flavourings or decorations.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the raw product is subjected to a downstream treatment with liquid smoke or other
flavourings or decorations.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the raw product is evacuated, for degassing, prior to the ultrasonic treatment.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the surface of the sonotrode to be contacted with the raw product has an adhesion-
minimizing microstructure or [[a]] structured coating ~~of this type~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Process according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the raw product is subjected to a synchronous treatment with liquid smoke or other
flavourings or decorations.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Process according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the raw product is subjected to a synchronous treatment with liquid smoke or other
flavourings or decorations.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the raw product is subjected to a downstream treatment with liquid smoke or other
flavourings or decorations.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the raw product is subjected to a downstream treatment with liquid smoke or other
flavourings or decorations.

Claim 12 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the surface of the sonotrode to be contacted with the raw product has an adhesion-
minimizing microstructure or [[a]] structured coating ~~of this type~~.

Claim 13 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the surface of the sonotrode to be contacted with the raw product has an adhesion-
minimizing microstructure or [[a]] structured coating ~~of this type~~.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the surface of the sonotrode to be contacted with the raw product has an adhesion-
minimizing microstructure or [[a]] structured coating ~~of this type~~.

Claim 15 (currently amended): Process according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the surface of the sonotrode to be contacted with the raw product has an adhesion-
minimizing microstructure or [[a]] structured coating ~~of this type~~.